Mansfield Commission on Aging Minutes Monday, March 8, 2004 2:30 PM – Senior Center

PRESENT: K. Grunwald (staff), P. Hope (staff), S. Thomas (Chair), B. Acebo, J.

Brubacher, E. Norris, K. Doeg, M. Thatcher, C. Phillips, P. Secker **REGRETS:** N. Stevens, B. Ivry, C. McMillan, D. Mercier, J. Kenny

- I. Call to Order: S. Thomas called the meeting to order at 2:35 PM, Chair.
- II. **Appointment of Recording Secretary**: K. Grunwald agreed to take minutes for the meeting.
- III. Acceptance of **Minutes** of the Feb 9, 2004 meeting: minutes were reviewed. It was noted that dollar amounts for the agency funding requests need to be included; these will be added as a separate report. Accepted as written.
- IV. Correspondence Chair and Staff: P. Hope shared a copy of the CT Commission on Aging Annual Report. A flyer from Senior Resources was also distributed on a March 11 meeting of Eastern CT residents with state legislators. A bus will be leaving from Generations in Willimantic. Attendance is encouraged.
- V. Optional Reports on Services/Needs of Town Aging Populations
 - A. Health Care Services

Wellness Center and Wellness Program – J. Kenny had submitted copies of her report. P. Hope noted that figures on donations are incomplete and need to be corrected.

Mansfield Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation – J. Kenny submitted a report that indicated that MCNR has received a \$16,000 grant for specialized rehabilitation equipment. They will be celebrating their 10th anniversary on May 23, and will be hosting an open house

B. Social, Recreational and Educational

Senior Center – P. Hope distributed copies of her report. She pointed out that the Senior Center is now offering soup and bread as an alternate meal, M-

F. Numbers of attendees at Friday meals has increased. Several successful social functions have been held, and there was good attendance for the cancer prevention presentation. There was also good attendance for a presentation on emergency use of the new defibrillator. The computer committee is working hard to attract new participants. Workshops are being offered to all to attract new members to enroll in courses. B. Acebo suggested making other senior centers in the area aware of these courses. Tax Assistance is being offered by AARP; some problems with the use of the phone line. A Low-Vision seminar will be offered on 3/11; starting in April a 10-week course will be offered for individuals who are legally blind; transportation will be provided. The Lion's Club low vision service will be here at the end of the month; Easter Seals will be offering a presentation on their driver evaluation program at the end of the month.

B. Acebo provided a copy of a NY Times article on changes to the Meals-On-Wheels program; also an article on increased Dial-A-Ride services in Avon. P. Hope mentioned that we are conducting a transportation survey to support our application for a grant from Senior Resources to hire a driver for the town van. She is looking for people to complete the survey who may not be coming to the Senior Center due to transportation problems. C. Phillips suggested that we utilize local churches to publicize programs, and this was discussed as an outreach activity for the Senior Social Worker. P. Secker mentioned the Storrs Area Regional Churches is a group that we may be able to access.

Senior Center Assoc. – J. Brubacher mentioned that the Association is setting up a committee to look at the long-term space needs of the Center. He requested a representative of the COA to be a part of this committee. New bylaws will be passed at their next Executive Committee meeting, for a vote for the full membership in April.

C. Housing

Assisted Living Project – S. Thomas mentioned that she has recently joined the Coalition for Assisted Living, which is exploring alternatives for creation of an assisted living facility in town. Jane Ann Bobbitt and Sharry Goldman are cochairing the committee, and K. Grunwald will be joining this group. She will continue to report on the efforts of this group.

Juniper Hill: P. Hope reported that kitchen renovations have started and they have contracted with UConn for meal service. Some residents have started to have lunch here. B. Acebo reported that Juniper Hill is providing assisted living services, and the need for this is growing. P.Hope reported that participants are on the CT Homecare Program for Elders, and they are only providing services for those who need care at the first two levels. Because services are limited, there are difficulties if residents move to needing a higher level of care. Overall the population there is aging and needing a higher level of care. Care is available from 7 AM until 7 PM; nursing care is provided 20 hours a week. Jensen's Park, Other: no report.

D. Related Town and Regional Organizations

Com. on Physically and Sensorily Impaired – M. Thatcher reported that MACNPD reviewed several agency-funding requests. They also reviewed an application to expand a local ceramics studio.

Senior Resources of Eastern CT: K. Grunwald reported that the Town has applied for federal funds for transportation services.

Town Plan of Conservation and Development – Carol Phillips: no report Town Community Center: no report.

VI Old Business

Review of Commission members and terms: S. Thomas mentioned that the Town Clerk noted that not all of the members identified by Carol McMillan and Lib Norris were formally re-appointed by the Town Council. S. Thomas has made this request of the Committee on Committees for formal appointment. Status of town Council consideration of Requests for Funds – K. Grunwald handed out a copy of a report going to the Town Manager, and mentioned that

the Town Council will be holding public hearings on this request. He mentioned that there are ongoing concerns re: cuts in Dial-A-Ride services and the amount of funding being requested.

Request for a Drive-by Mail Box: The mayor has contacted S. Thomas to let her know that the Council supports this request and the Assistant Town Manager has written a letter to the postmaster of Storrs formally requesting that this be pursued.

Tabled Motion on joining CT Elder Action Network: P. Hope explained that this is a group that advocates for the needs of seniors. Membership is \$35 for a voting member; \$25 for a non-voting member. She stated that as a representative group of seniors the Commission represents an important voice. Some discussion about how participation in a group like this fits into the role of this Commission. S. Thomas suggested that the Commission not pursue this. K. Grunwald will pursue the status of our membership in the CT Coalition on Aging.

VI. New Business

S. Thomas mentioned the Commission's long-range plan will expire at the end of the year. The Commission will review this plan and make recommendations for changes to the plan. Suggested that this be discussed at the meetings in April and May; copies will be sent to members who did not attend this meeting.

VI. **Adjournment:** meeting adjourned at 4:12 PM.

(next meeting set for Monday, April 12, 2004 at 2:30, Senior Center)